

***REMARKS***

***Pending Claims***

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, 19 claims are pending in the application. Of the pending claims, 2 claims are independent. Claims 1-16 are canceled and new claims 31-37 are entered.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

The Examiner has indicated that claims 17, 21, and 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Pursuant to this determination, Applicant has rewritten claim 17 as an independent claim and the elements of claims 14 and 21 have been combined to form new independent claim 31. In addition, previously-entered dependent claims have been made to depend from claims 17 and 31 and as such no new matter is added by these amendments and no new searching is required. Minor amendments have been made to several claims in order to correct the claim dependencies, and claim 23 has been amended in order to provide proper antecedent basis for the phrase "said providing a grounded nozzle and an electrode separated by a predetermined distance".

All remaining pending claims, including those previously withdrawn pursuant to a restriction requirement, are herewith canceled without prejudice. The canceled claims will be entered in a continuation application to be filed subsequently.

Applicant respectfully submits that this application is now in condition for allowance.

***Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 102(b)***

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 14, 15, 17, 19, and 23-26 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sickles (US Pat. 4,347,984). However, in view of the amendments and cancellations of the claims entered herewith, these rejections are rendered moot.

***Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 103(a)***

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 14, 15, 19, 20, 23, 24 and 26-29 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sickles (US Pat. 4,347,984) in view of Lasley (US Pat. 4,934,603). However, in view of the amendments and cancellations of the claims entered herewith, these rejections are rendered moot.

***Conclusion***

Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims are allowable over the prior art of record, including the cited references. For similar reasons, and for the additional reasons set forth above, Applicant urge that the dependent claims are also allowable.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

Application of Wang et al.  
Appl. No. 10/632,891  
Filed August 1, 2003

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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